

WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 11, 1867.

Mr. HENRY M. LAW, Montgomery, Alabama, is our general traveling agent for the States of Alabama and Tennessee, assisted by G. F. LEWIS, James G. LEWIS, and SAMUEL B. LEWIS.

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THE QUESTION SETTLED.

When a new State is about to come into the Union she must have a constitution. Her own people must make it. Congress has no right to dictate what form it shall take, provided it be not inconsistent with the fundamental law of the Union. These are propositions which no man will attempt to deny who is not blinded by prejudice, or else utterly ignorant of those first principles in the science of government which the whole American people are presumed to understand.

Self-evident as is the right of a State to make its own constitution, the anti-slavery politicians denied it to Missouri in 1820; and it was only after a violent contest, which, in the opinion of many wise and eminent men, endangered the Union, that the people of Missouri were permitted to live under institutions formed according to their own judgment.

But this clear and indubitable right was not conceded to Missouri until it was coupled with a declaration that other Territories within certain limits should be subject to the unconstitutional surveillance of Congress on the subject of slavery. In other words, Missouri was allowed to exercise her constitutional rights on condition that Congress might violate the constitution at some other time in regard to some other Territory. This was the so-called "Missouri Compromise," about which so much has been said and sung. That it was wholly unconstitutional, null, and void, is now ascertained and settled by Congress, by the people, and by the Supreme Court.

The Kansas troubles are a mere prolongation of the Missouri controversy, in which the abolitionists of every hue in every part of the northern States insist upon forcing another new State to adopt a constitution which it does not prefer. With reference to Kansas, they would trample on the rights of her white people, upon the provisions of the federal constitution, and upon the principles of natural justice, precisely as they attempted to do in the case of Missouri thirty-seven years ago.

But in 1850 these doctrines of abolitionism were met with an opposition in Congress which, if not able, was at least more successful. The great truth was again asserted by the democracy that the constitution of the United States gave no right to any body outside of a new Territory to interfere with the subject of slavery within it. Congress then abandoned the claim, which had been previously set up, to dictate to the people immediately interested how they should decide the question. This was a new compromise—"the compromise of 1850."

Agreeably to this last compromise, the Kansas-Nebraska bill of 1854 was passed, expressly declaring that no such power to control the people of the new Territories on the subject of slavery was or could rightfully be claimed—"it being," said Congress, "the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States."

This provision, so plainly and palpably just, was met by the northern anti-slavery men with a fierce yell of opposition. The utmost violence of denunciation and the lowest acts of mendacity were resorted to for the purpose of procuring such a majority against it in the Union as would make Congress usurp the power, and take away from the people of the State or Territory the right which the Nebraska bill conceded, and which the constitution had guaranteed. The fight went on, with varied success, until November, 1856, when the vote on the presidency crowned the truth with a glorious triumph.

The great man then chosen by the people as Chief Magistrate of the republic was solemnly committed to the principle of leaving slavery to the people. The convention which made him a candidate had declared that to be one of its cardinal principles, and he had given the assent of his judgment to it. The people who cast their votes for him knew that such was the rule by which his conduct in office would be governed.

He did not disappoint them. His inaugural address his adherence to his pledges. His first act was to send a man into Kansas as governor, with instructions to see that the right of the people to express their opinion on the subject was not interfered with, by force or fraud. The emissaries sent out by a fraudulent "Aid Society," and who had raised a civil war to effect the election of an anti-slavery candidate for the presidency, and who were still keeping up a rebellious organization against the lawful authorities, were to be met with the resistance they deserved.

There needed but one thing more to settle forever all controversy upon the question. That was the sanction of the judiciary; and that it received when the case of Dred Scott came before the Supreme Court.

This long-veiled question is settled—settled forever. Congress has no right to interfere with the affairs of Kansas. New England may attend to her own affairs. The representatives who she will elect to the federal legislature will have no power over the subject. The duty of the President will simply consist in seeing that no cheat is practiced upon the people of Kansas, and that violence shall not drive them from the polls. Whoever supposes that this duty will not be performed by the present administration has yet to learn the character of James Buchanan.

The democracy of Ashland county, Kentucky, met in convention last week, and among other resolutions passed the following:

Resolved, That the democracy of Ashland county are satisfied with the constitution and the Union as they are; and that the late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, being in conformity with the constitution, as interpreted by the best authorities, as well as by its obvious meaning, meets with our approval; and that the resistance to this decision without the proposition of a constitutional remedy, by the black-republican party, is only designed to prepare the hearts of the people for revolution and civil war.

INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION OF KANSAS.

We give below a sketch of the proceedings of the late democratic convention held at Leocompton, Kansas, as furnished by a correspondent of the St. Louis Republican. While northern and southern sectionalists unite in their denunciations of Governor Walker in terms of unmeasured abuse, and are leaving no opportunity unembraced and no means unemployed to mould the institutions of Kansas, not according to the wishes of the people of the Territory, but in accordance with their own selfish views and prejudices, it is indeed a source of the deepest gratification to know that the great principle of popular sovereignty is at last to be vindicated and maintained in spite of the studied screams of fanaticism or the more courtly opposition of the undisguised enemies of the Union and the constitution.

It is clear to our mind that the convention which met at Leocompton on the 3d instant fully and fairly represented the views and wishes of the whole national democratic party of Kansas. Discarding all sectionalism, democrats from slave States and democrats from free States met upon the broad and patriotic platform of nationality. Consulting their own ideas of interest and happiness, individual and collective, and uninfluenced by outside clamor and dictation, they have resolved to support a line of policy which they believe will ally excitement, remove irritation, satisfy the demands of justice, and ensure to the common benefit of all. With only one dissenting voice they approve of submitting the constitution about to be framed to the vote of the people; and, as will be seen, they approve the course pursued by Governor Walker with an enthusiasm and a hearty unanimity which leaves no doubt as to the real position which he occupies in the confidence and affections of the people of the Territory.

On two points the correspondent of the St. Louis Republican is quite emphatic. The pro-slavery men of Kansas and Missouri heartily approve of the course pursued by Governor Walker. If the pro-slavery democrats of Kansas are satisfied with the governor, and if the people of a State which is more immediately interested in his acts than any other in the Union is satisfied with him, it will occur to any reasonable mind that our southern friends of the extreme school have no immediate, or even remote, cause for interference or alarm.

(Correspondence of the St. Louis Republican.)

LECOMPTON, July 3.

The regular national democratic convention representing the several counties of this Territory, and assembled by the central committee, assembled at Leocompton, the seat of government, this day.

It was largely attended, there being absent but thirteen out of sixty representative votes.

They passed resolutions excluding all sectional distinctions, adopting the Cincinnati platform, and assuming the name of the national democracy of Kansas, embracing all democrats, whether from the North or the South. They passed resolutions, by a unanimous vote, pledging their support and co-operation to Gov. Walker, amid enthusiastic cheers, and nominated Gov. Ransom as their delegate to Congress.

A resolution was presented pledging support to the State constitution to be adopted, even if that instrument shall not be submitted to the people for ratification. After considerable discussion this resolution was rejected with but one dissenting vote, and the result was announced amid loud cheering.

This convention was composed of a large majority of pro-slavery men, but the whole democratic party of Kansas, whether pro-slavery or free State, will sustain the inaugural address of Gov. Walker, and the submission of the constitution to the vote of the people. Under these resolutions Gov. Ransom will be elected, and the democratic will carry the territorial legislature.

The constitution to be framed in September next, it is now certain, will be submitted to the whole people, and will be ratified by a large majority. I cannot, of course, now speak with certainty, but the prevailing opinion is that they will adopt a constitution securing the right to the slaves now in the Territory, numbering about two hundred; the execution of the fugitive-slave law, and the appeal in constitutional questions to the Supreme Court of the United States; and that, at the same time the constitution is submitted, they will also submit a clause, for the vote of the whole people, prohibiting or authorizing the introduction of slaves in the future. It is conceded on all hands that a large majority of the people will vote to prohibit the future introduction of slaves into this Territory. They have also endorsed Gov. Walker's Indian and land policy, and will insert it in an ordinance accompanying the constitution.

It is probable, also, that they will insist on the introduction of the Southern Indian Territory as a State, and probably secure the extension of their northern boundary to the Platte river, with the consent of Congress.

The complete success of Governor Walker's policy, through the hearty co-operation of the whole democratic party of Kansas, whether pro-slavery or free-State democracy, is now certain.

Just before the convention closed, and after all the resolutions had been adopted, a committee was appointed to wait on Governor Walker and request him to address the convention, which he did amid the most uproarious cheers—three times three and a tiger.

Henceforth you may consider the Kansas difficulty as settled on the platform of Governor Walker, sustained by the whole democracy of Kansas, with scarcely a dissenting voice, and by the whole democracy of Missouri; which State fully understands the question, has fully endorsed Gov. Walker's plans, knows that they are the only plan for the Territory, and that, except for the course pursued by him, civil war would now be raging in Kansas; that the free-State democracy would be separated from the pro-slavery democracy, and that Kansas would be brought into the Union as an out-and-out abolition State.

Governor Ransom fully agrees in the whole policy of Governor Walker's address.

GOV. WALKER AND THE KANSAS DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

It is an encouraging proof (says the Journal of Commerce) of the wisdom and popularity of Gov. Walker's policy in Kansas that it was approved by the democratic territorial convention at their recent session by a vote of forty to one. They also resolved that the State constitution about to be framed by the constitutional convention shall not be considered valid until it is submitted for the approval of the people of the Territory, and approved by a majority of them at the ballot-box. This is a significant rebuke to those who, professing to know a better than the Kansas men themselves what is good for them, undertake to assail Gov. Walker and the administration because they do not lend themselves to promote the triumph of purely sectional views and prejudices. It is to be supposed that the democratic party in Kansas are the best judges of their own affairs, and that, if they approve the course of the territorial executive, it is a tolerably conclusive proof that they do not believe that the governor has "sold them to the free-State men." Passion and prejudice may prevail for a time; but truth and justice will triumph in the end.

The attendance (says the Albany Argus) of ex-President Pierce at the funeral of Gov. Marcy, at the inconvenience of a long and rapid journey from New Hampshire, was a feeling and graceful tribute to his late distinguished Secretary of State.

THE DEMOCRACY OF MARYLAND MOVING.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the democracy, held at Cambridge, Maryland, on Monday last, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas the approaching election, particularly as it involves the choice of our representative in Congress, is one of the most important, if not the most important, since the organization of our federal Union, inasmuch as upon the fact of a clear democratic majority in the House of Representatives, determined to support the present administration, depends the quieting and settlement of the slavery agitation; and whereas the constitution, and consequently the future stability of this government; the admission of Kansas as a State, according to the will of her people, expressed through a constitutional convention, by them freely elected; the suppression of rebellion in Utah, and peaceable settlement of the slavery agitation; and the people in their primary assemblies should express their views on these topics; Therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to all who love the Union of these States and the stability of our government, and who are opposed to the revolutionary sentiment and the doctrine of the "rights of man," to support the course of the democratic and conservative people of this district—such a course being so clearly just to him, and ourselves also, after the signal triumph achieved by him in a district not represented by a democrat for very many years.

Resolved, That the signal ability with which the present federal administration of the government has so far conducted public affairs entitles it to our continued confidence and support.

Resolved, That we will heartily unite with the great conservative and patriotic portion of our beloved State to support the course of the democratic and conservative people of this district—such a course being so clearly just to him, and ourselves also, after the signal triumph achieved by him in a district not represented by a democrat for very many years.

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The third resolution is a just recognition of faithful, efficient, and distinguished public services. The votes and the speeches of Judge Stewart in the last Congress—his services in and out of the House of Representatives—fully entitle him to this renewed evidence of confidence on the part of his constituents.

We transfer to our columns the following article from a late number of the London Times in reference to the question of cotton supply in England. We have never doubted the capabilities of India to produce almost unlimited quantities of cotton—ample, and more than ample, to supply all the factories of the world; but we contend that, for the production of the quality of the raw material indispensable in the manufacture of salable cotton goods—such, and such alone, as have opened the markets of the world to British looms—the United States need fear no rival. When the India cotton fields are accessible to the sea-ports—and that is the real question which must first be satisfactorily settled, impracticable as it now seems—then England may have a sufficient supply from that quarter to mix—with the proportion of three to seven—with the raw material which the United States has hitherto supplied, and is likely to supply in all future time:

From the London Times.

THE GREAT COTTON-SUPPLY QUESTION.

The discussions on the great question of our cotton supply, if they have brought one or two points of the case more decidedly into controversy than before, have placed others beyond any reasonable doubt. There can be no uncertainty about the reality or urgency of the crisis itself. True it is, that through what has now been a long and weary process, the cotton supply of the world is coming from the United States without any of those interruptions which might be theoretically conceived. True it is, also, that notwithstanding the astonishing increase of the demand, the supply has hitherto kept pace with it, and our manufacturers have, as a matter of fact, been pretty well provided with the raw material which they required. But it is also true that to make both ends meet is gradually growing more and more a matter of difficulty; that scarcity is felt even now; and that the Americans themselves have expressed apprehensions as to their continued powers of production at the rate of increase prevailing. Another fact established is that India can supply only a small portion of the cotton which our increased consumption may render necessary, and of any quality desirable. Mr. J. B. Smith, who opened the debate on Tuesday, related an instance in which Indian-grown cotton had been sold in Manchester at 6d. per pound, the ordinary value of native produce being 3d. and Mr. Turner, who followed him, added the weight of his personal authority in confirmation of the general proposition. The cotton of India, in its original condition, though not so good as might be produced by skillful proceedings, is by no means of a bad staple, its principal blemishes being caused by removable drawbacks attending its picking and carrying. As to the capacity of the country for production there were not two opinions. Mr. Mangles himself—the representative of the East India Company—said that, under certain conditions, India "could supply all the cotton that this country would require;" in fact, that there was "hardly any amount" which our manufacturers might not obtain from that source, if they were well managed and well protected in manner. This being the case, and it being admitted both that it is highly expedient to provide for a demand so rapidly on the increase, and that India, from the circumstances of its territory and population, offers the best means of effecting the provision, why is a result thus shown to be both desirable and attainable, still so long in coming, or, at any rate, put into promising train? Here lies the critical point of the case. Why does not India export more cotton, and how can it be enabled to do so?

We need not include in the argument the calls of the home consumption. No doubt the Hindoos have a large portion of the cotton crop themselves, though it is by no means sure, as Lord Stanley suggested, that they might not be clad more cheaply with English calicoes, even after all the cost of carriage backwards and forwards. But this consideration is of no moment whatever, for it is perfectly certain that the capabilities of the country in this respect are boundless. Indeed, a single acre of Bombay is uncultivated land to the extent and quality sufficient to yield millions of bales every season. Why, then, are such crops not reared? There was some force in the argument of Mr. Mangles, that the requisition for Indian cotton was rather a casualty than a certainty, and that a permanent supply could not be expected, where there was no permanency in the demand. If the function assigned to India in cotton-growing is merely to fill up a possible gap, it is not likely that the production of the article would be pushed with much vigor. But here it must be remarked that, according to our present prospects, the question seems no longer concerned with the insurance of a given supply. Looking at the probable demand for our manufactures, there would scarcely be any limits to our want of raw material, and if millions after millions are to be clothed from our looms, market after market must be opened to us for cotton. Admitting that the Americans may command the first purchases, there will still be a large and profitable market for the product of the Indian soil. If, then, this quality is attainable, why is not the problem solved, and the long-desired traffic established?

Taking the objections on one side and the answers on the other, the expositions of the Manchester spinners and the replies of the Indian authorities, we find the gist of the whole case to be somewhat as follows: The production of cotton on a large and efficient scale requires—like all such enterprises—a greater investment of capital and energy than is at the command of the Hindoos. It is not simply money which is wanted, but vigor. If Manchester agents would go out with full purses and European ideas the country is broad enough and populous enough to furnish all that is required besides. So argued Mr. Mangles, and with perfect reason, so far as the mere facts went. The tables, however, appear turned upon the company when we come to inquire why Englishmen do not embark in this as they would in any other speculation of promise, for we are then told that the administration of India is not such a man accustomed to free government will live under it. Excluding the great capitals of the presidencies, there are actually only 317 British subjects in India independent of the company's service. This service represents a caste as complete and as privileged as that of the Brahmins themselves, and Englishmen are naturally not much disposed to be treated as outsiders. It can be this effectually remedied? It cannot be forgotten that the government of India, though doubtless bound to consult the requirements of British markets, is also charged with the administration of an enormous empire, and that even if half the population of England were to migrate to Decatur, their numbers would be lost in the native millions around them. These millions, too, are so touchy and sensitive on particular points of faith or custom, that the most harmless proceeding, as we have recently seen, may be interpreted into an alarming grievance. Fairly enough may it be argued that the institutions of such a country are not to be easily adapted to English notions of freedom.

Whether the tenure of the land offers any real obstacles to agricultural activity, over and above those arising from the traditional ideas of the population, it may not be easy to say; but there was certainly one point on which all parties were more or less agreed. Mr. Mangles acknowledged that "cotton" has nothing to do with the price of cotton, and Mr. Turner described the damage which the material suffered in its conveyance to the coast. Dr. Buist, as our readers will find this morning observe, goes more directly to the point, and comprehensively asserts that, "were the valley of Berar connected with Bombay by a direct railway line, the cotton of that valley would be worth a pound, and get all the cotton she wants for 24d. a pound, all land and all charges included." Now, this point, at any rate, need involve little controversy. There may be a question between English and American systems of construction; but it is clear that facility of transport is the great thing needed. "At the present time," says Mr. Mangles, "one pound of cotton might be conveyed 450 miles for three-fifths of a farthing," and he thought the fact ought to satisfy the Lancashire remonstrants. No doubt it does so; but over how many miles can cotton thus be carried?

At the same time, although there can be no disguise about the obligations of the Indian government in this respect, we think the authorities of the company may fairly ask for some issue rather more definite than has yet been raised. What is it, specifically, that they are required to do? Mr. Mangles detected the weak point in the Manchester case when he recommended his opponents to get their own cotton from India, instead of calling upon the company. Certainly we have no wish to see an artificial cultivation established in India by any system of bounties or protection against the natural laws of trade. If a supply of cotton could not be created by the fair operation of demand, it can never be successfully maintained by government interference. The authorities, however, may remove obstacles, and this species of aid is all the more indispensable in India, where nothing can be done without government concurrence. They can, at least, promote cultivation by public works; they can hasten the execution of railways, and they can take care not to diminish the small but valuable fair field for the husbandman at one end and an accessible port for shipment at the other. After these conditions have been satisfied—and they ought not to be very embarrassing—the manufacturers of Lancashire must do the rest for themselves.

TRUTH AND JUSTICE WILL TRIUMPH.

We copy the following from the Macon (Georgia) Telegraph:

"Two gentlemen direct from Kansas passed through Macon last week, with one of whom we have been long personally acquainted. We did not happen to see either, but heard from both. Both, we understand, concur in representing the course of Walker as meeting the entire sanction and approval of the pro-slavery party in Kansas. The best policy which could be pursued under the circumstances, and both thought the Georgia convention resolutions too hasty. We give their representations for what they are worth. Two days before one of them left the town of Atchison was sold out to free-soilers—stock, land, and barrel—a cash transaction."

The Baltimore Republican publishes an article from the Union on Kansas affairs, and then adds:

"What with this, and the fact that the democratic party in Kansas sustains Gov. Walker, as do the most considerable of the democratic press of the South, one could not but feel that the right-minded men to look attentively over the whole group before joining in a clamor against one whose statesmanship in the matter of Texas and the tariff of 1846 rendered such signal service to the slaveholding States."

The Hartford Times says:

"A letter from Kansas states that the democratic convention of July met at Leocompton on the 3d. The whole democratic party will support Walker's inaugural, and favor the admission of the new constitution to the people. Resolutions were passed, adopting the Cincinnati platform, and assuming the name 'national democracy of Kansas,' embracing all democrats, whether from the North or the South. Gov. Walker was invited to address the convention, which he did with great effect. Ransom's election is considered certain."

THE FUNERAL OF GOV. MARCY.

From all accounts the funeral of Gov. Marcy was more imposing than any ceremonial of the kind which ever took place in Albany. The Argus of that city says:

"The procession from the Capitol to the cemetery was very large, and one of the most impressive demonstrations of this character which we ever beheld. The display of the military and firemen of this city, and from abroad, has seldom been surpassed. There were seventy-two military and fire companies and associations in the procession, and the most beautiful and imposing portion of the spectacle was the immense multitude of people which crowded the streets, filled the balconies, doors, windows, and roofs, and occupied every accessible standpoint. Everything was conducted with the greatest decorum and propriety. All these thousands of people, both the military and the civil, seemed subdued and impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, and the magnitude of their loss, and all was quiet and in keeping with the emblems of mourning everywhere displayed."

GOV. MEDARY.

The Ohio Statesman of Tuesday says:

"We had the gratification this morning of welcoming to his old sanctum our 'distinguished predecessor,' who has just returned from Washington city, on his route back to St. Paul, where we know he will be greeted with a welcome as warm and cordial as our own. His administration of the territory of Minnesota has met with the universal approbation of the people—much content, whose niggardism is paramount to everything else, alone dissenting. His return to the field of his labors will be greeted by those who confide in his wisdom, his firmness, his integrity, and his benevolent, frank disposition, which are his true characteristics."

From the St. Louis Republican, July 3.

KANSAS NEWS.

We hear from Kansas that on Saturday evening last the case of Haller, charged with the murder of Lyle, was brought to a termination on that day by the conviction of the accused to the guard-house at Fort Leavenworth. There was a large crowd of people in attendance upon the examination. Many of them armed with pistols. The friends of Lyle were resolved that the murderer should not escape, and the black republicans were equally resolved that Haller should not be harmed. At this crisis, Governor Walker appeared, took the prisoner from custody after the examination for the day had closed, and sent him, under safe conduct, to Fort Leavenworth. In this decision of the governor there was general acquiescence. It was supposed that the case would be closed on Monday, and that the accused would be sent to jail to await his trial. In all other respects the country is quiet, and Gov. Walker is making great headway in the affections of the people.

Our information from Leavenworth is very late, and it discredits the silly stories set afloat up the river of the defeat of Colonel Sumner's command, with the loss of 150 men, by the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. On Sunday last no such information had been received at Fort Leavenworth by Gen. Harney, and he gives no credence to the story.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

Wash.—Information has been received from L. J. Merritt, esq., United States consul at Nassau, New Providence, that the barque Edward, of New York, Thomas Jones master, while on a voyage from Boston to Mobile, ran ashore on the morning of the 15th ult. upon the north side of Benini Island, and bilged. The vessel is a total loss; the cargo, consisting of two hundred and fifty tons of railroad iron and of assorted merchandise, is mostly saved, and is now on board of wrecking vessels bound hither.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.—Surveys in the Territories of New Mexico and Utah.—The annual report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office for the year 1856 has just been published. It is a voluminous document of three hundred and sixty-seven pages, and contains a number of highly-important tables and maps, exhibiting the transactions of this complicated branch of our government in a comprehensive and simple form. This report was submitted to Congress at its last session, and a portion of it was at that time published in the newspapers. We now propose to make the following unpublished extracts in relation to the Territories of New Mexico and Utah:

"The surveys have been confined to 674 miles of meridian base and correction lines, 265 miles of township and subdivision lines, notwithstanding the Indian hostilities and the difficulty of procuring supplies in a sparsely settled country."

"Since the last annual report, there have been filed with the surveyor general sixteen private land claims; three of them have been examined by him; the remaining thirteen, with fifteen other claims previously filed, are awaiting further testimony. The examination of such titles has been delayed by the apathy of claimants, and their neglect to present the necessary testimony. There have been filed, in all, fourteen of the Pueblo claims, which, having been examined, will be submitted for the action of Congress. Only thirty-two donation claims have been filed since the opening of the office."

"The election of the archbishops of the Spanish and Mexican governments, which were turned over to the surveyor general's office by the governor of New Mexico, resulted in the collection of 1,014 grants and documents relating to land titles, of which 197 are private grants. These have all been classified, alphabetically arranged, and constitute permanent official records."

"From the advice received at this office from the surveyor general of New Mexico and other sources, it is evident individuals claiming lands under former governments before the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 are very averse to respond to the call made on them by the surveyor general's office to produce the evidence of their claims to his office at Santa Fe; some from fear of losing the evidence of their titles, inspired, it is supposed, by designing individuals."

"In many instances, the Pueblo Indians have been deterred from filing their title-papers with the surveyor general, in the apprehension they would never again get possession of them."

"Others, conscious of an indisputable possessory right of landed estates, feel perfect security on the subject, and do not care to exhibit, much less file, their title-papers, for the purpose of enabling the surveyor general to report upon the claims to Congress for confirmation under the act of July 22, 1854. This tardiness in complying with the requirement under the law delays the action on the part of the surveyor general, and on the part of Congress, and of course will cause corresponding delay in the survey of claims, and restrict the field of operations in New Mexico. It interferes, also, with donation claimants under the law of July 22, 1854."

"To obviate the difficulty, it is suggested that a period of time be prescribed by law within which claimants shall file their claims, and that a summary system for their final settlement, on principles of justice, be provided by Congress. There existing no authority of law for the survey of private claims, the archbishops of New Mexico, until the same shall have been acted upon by the surveyor general, reported to Congress, and finally confirmed, all the executive can do, under present circumstances, is to exclude them from sectional subdivision, in the gradual extension of the lines of the public surveys."

ing of Utah Territory, the Commissioner says:

"The surveying operations from the 27th of July, 1855, the date of the arrival of the surveyor-general at Salt Lake City, to the 1st of March, 1856, have consisted in a preliminary reconnaissance of the country in the neighborhood of the Salt Lake, and in the establishment of the initial point at the corner of the Temple block, in the Salt Lake City, by erecting a suitable monument at the point of the intersection of the principal meridian and the base line, from which the survey was extended east four miles, and the west thirty-six miles. The principal meridian was extended north from the initial point, on line and by offsets, eighty-four miles, and south seventy-two miles. The meridian and the base line pass through Salt Lake valley, Cache, Malade, Blue Spring, and Haman Spring valleys to the north of the base; through Tullahoma, and Bush valleys on the west, and through Utah, Cedar, Tintick, and a portion of Yonah valleys on the south."

"Contracts have been entered into for surveying these valleys, with the exception of the desert lying west of Salt Lake. The surveys are to be made into townships, with authority for subdividing them into sections. The field work under the contracts has been reported to this office as returned to the surveyor general's office, and the office work as completed and ready for transmission to Washington. The extent of the field operations comprised between one hundred and thirty and one hundred and forty townships, including fractional townships."

"A partial examination of the country has been made beyond the localities enumerated by the surveyor general, who recommends the extension of the base and meridian lines hereto, and suggests the propriety of surveying the valuable timber lands found in the canons of the mountains in Utah."

"The surveyor general reports that the Salt Lake city is far greater in extent than the corporate authorities are entitled to under the town-site act of 23d May, 1854. He represents that the city occupies several square miles, and suggests the propriety of legal enactment to enable him to close the lines of the public surveys upon such limits of the city as it may be proper to require. It is further stated that the public domain in the city, and out of the limits thereof, settled by Mormons, is being conveyed by the members of the church of Latter Day Saints, in consideration of their good will towards the church, to Brigham Young, together with the same, and he suggests that the property thus conveyed ought to be sold."

"This proceeding in the Territory is incompatible with our system, and suggests the propriety of congressional interposition. As the town-site act of 1854 limits the grant to 320 acres, it might be proper to consider the peculiar condition of the capital of Utah, and pass a legislative enactment to award to the city a sufficient number of the legal subdivisions to embrace its present actual improvements, such legal subdivisions contiguous to those improvements to be, of course, laid open for disposal under the general land laws applicable to the same."

Report of the Indian Office.—Circular.—The following circular has been issued by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the purpose of insuring the completion of the annual report of the Indian Bureau before the opening of Congress:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Office of Indian Affairs, July, 1857.

Sir: Your attention is hereby called to the regulation of the department, which must be strictly complied with, requiring that the annual reports of superintendents, agents, teachers, and farmers shall be provided in season to reach this office by the 1st day of October, as, if they arrive later, they will be of little or no use in preparing the annual communication to be made to Congress.

And that each agent will prepare a list of all persons connected with the Indian service, on the 30th of September ensuing, within his agency, showing the names of the persons who have been appointed, the dates of their appointments, when employed, the character of their employment, and compensation. This should be done with great care, to be used in the preparation of the Biennial Report. He should also state the number of cattle under his charge, distinguishing the sexes, and whether employed in the chase, agricultural or mechanical pursuits.

The farmers will give the number of farms, or acres cultivated, the kind of cultivation, and the amount and disposition of the produce.

The teachers will give the number of scholars, their ages, studies, and average time of attendance, and distinguishing the sexes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. W. DENVER, Commissioner.

Interesting Indian News.—The Commissioner of Indian Affairs received yesterday afternoon an interesting letter from Agent Twiss. Mr. Twiss was on the Upper Platte—the great emigrant route to the West—at the date of his letter, and held a "talk" early in June with a party of Chey Indians, whom he overtook on their way to attack the Snakes. The result of the interview was satisfactory to all parties, and the Indians returned to their hunting-grounds on the Yellowstone river.

Mr. Twiss also reports that the Cheyenne Indians are peaceably disposed towards the government and the emigrants. The greatest difficulty he has had to contend with has been the obstructions thrown in his way by bad white men. It will be recollected that a recent telegraphic despatch from St. Louis stated that these Indians had attacked the United States troops in command of Colonel Sumner, and had killed the whole party. From what Mr. Twiss writes, this report must be either greatly exaggerated or wholly without foundation.

Finally upon the Pension Office.—Intelligence has been received by the Commissioner of Pensions that William H. Browning, a notary public of New London, Connecticut, has been convicted of forging and transmitting false papers to the Pension Bureau for the purpose of obtaining bounty-land warrants, and sentenced to the penitentiary at Westfield for five years.

C. T. Miner, of the same place, has also been indicted for a like offense, and held to bail in the sum of \$10,000 for his appearance at the August term of the court, which will be held at New Haven. Failing to procure the bail required, Mr. Miner was committed to prison.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

STONY LONESOME, July 7, 1857.

My dear friends: If I recollect right, I intimated in one of my letters an intention to give you a sketch of our village; it has lately been incorporated into a town, and expects soon to be promoted to a city. I now proceed to fulfil my obligation.

It is called Oberlin, and is situated on a stream, which, being very respectable after a heavy rain, is, in the opinion of a long-headed internal-improvement man of our town, eminently calculated to become a great emporium, providing our river can be made navigable for anything but ducks and geese. For this purpose the long-headed man lately prepared a plan for turning the Mohawk river our way, which could easily be done by damming it across, and digging a tunnel through a mountain. This was objected to in order to do this the river must travel up hill, but the long-headed man thought this of no great consequence, as, after "conquering time and space," as he had been already done, we might snap our fingers at the laws of Nature, which should be easily set aside by an act of the legislature.

This objection being thus overcome, the next point was to estimate the cost, which amounted to some millions, which is considered a mere fleabite in these times, when everything is scarce and dear except paper-money and patriotism.